Lovely Strange Dark
YORU NO DOUWA
"EVENING FAIRY-TALES"
BY KONNO KITA
CHAPTER 2
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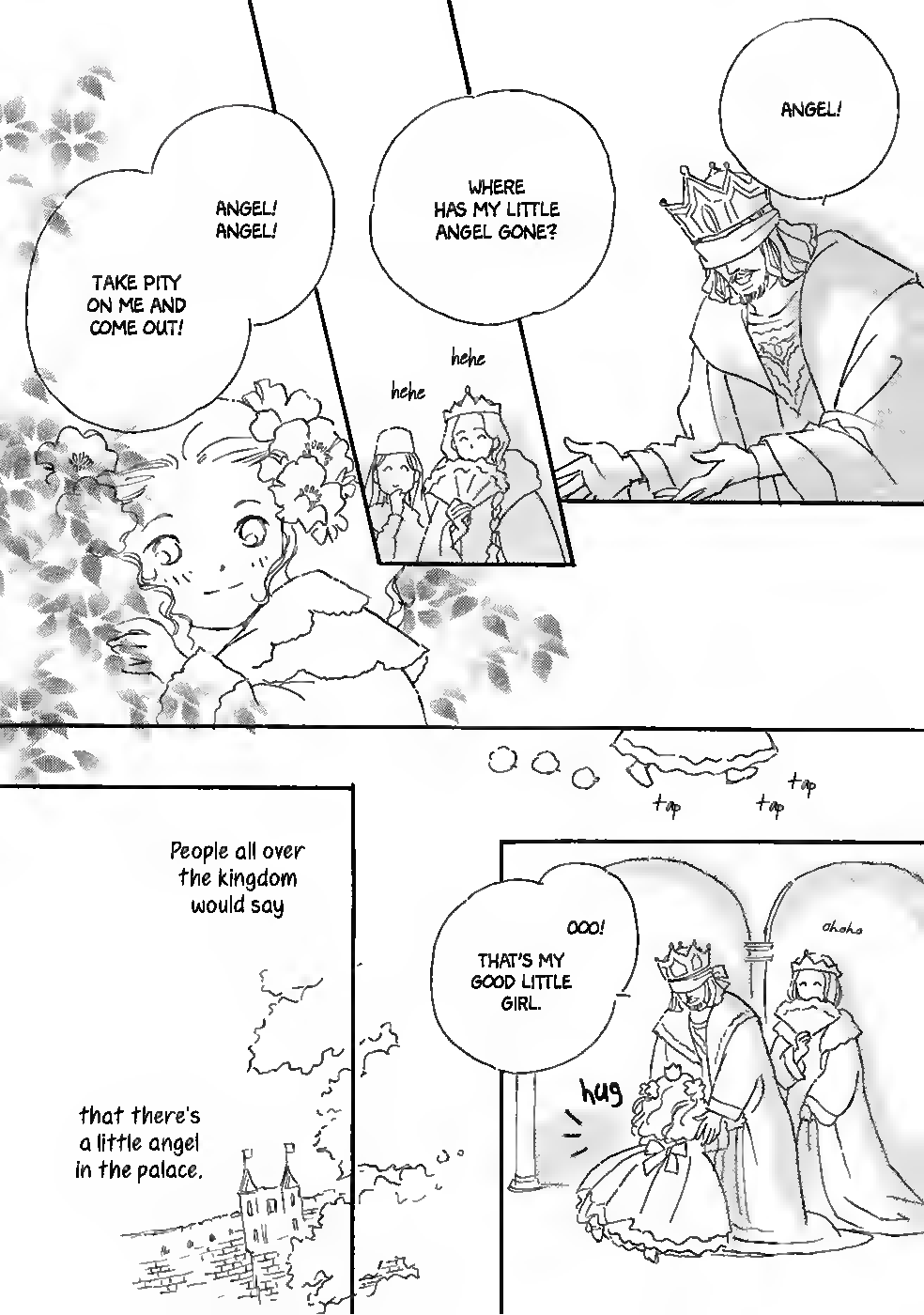
GARDEN


ANGEL!
WHERE HAS MY LITTLE ANGEL GONE?
ANGEL! ANGEL!
TAKE PITY ON ME AND COME OUT!
hehe
hehe
tap
tap
tap
People all over the kingdom would say
that there's a little angel in the palace.
OOO!
THAT'S MY GOOD LITTLE GIRL.
ahaha
hug

Though it was a tiny kingdom,

it was wealthy and peaceful,

and the king was beloved by his people.

The king and queen had one daughter.

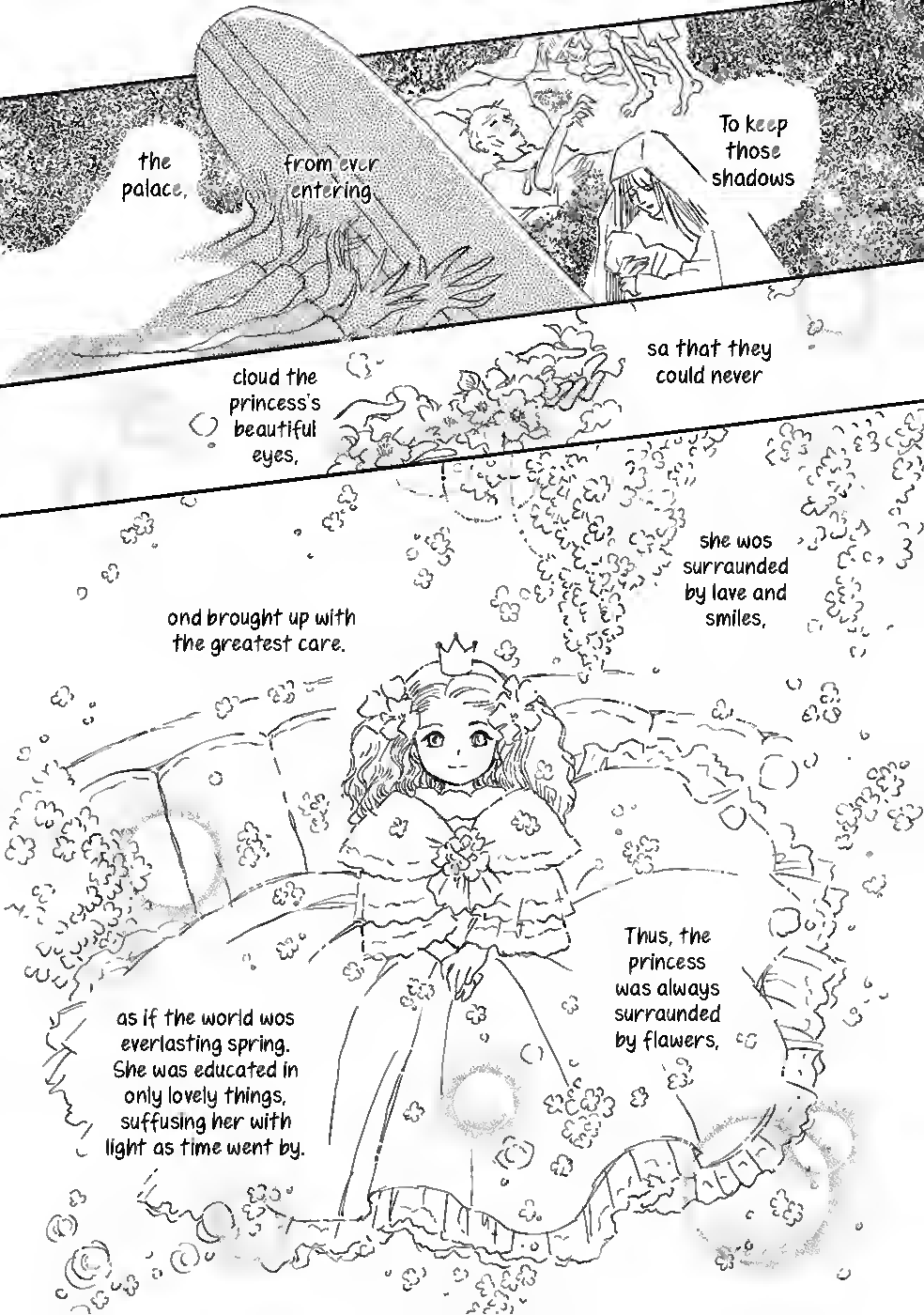
The little princess was popular in the palace,

and everyone there couldn't help but love her angelic innocence.

However,

just as shadows are cast wherever the sunlight touches,

so too did this world have parts that weren't sunny and pleasant.

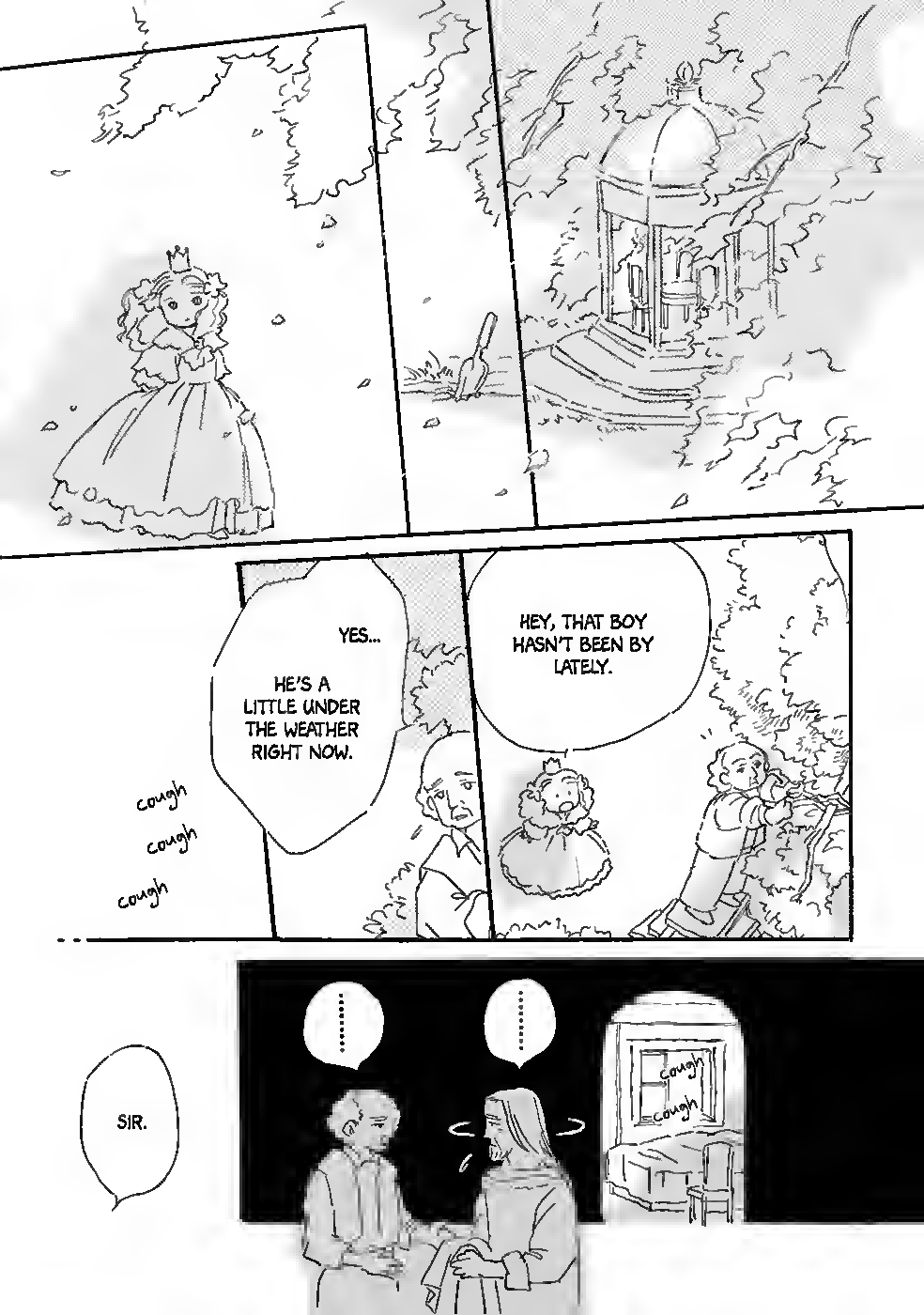

the palace,
from ever entering.
To keep those shadows
so that they could never
cloud the princess's beautiful eyes,
she was surrounded by love and smiles,
and brought up with the greatest care.
Thus, the princess was always surrounded by flowers,
as if the world was everlasting spring. She was educated in only lovely things, suffusing her with light as time went by.

NOW, MY PRINCESS, HERE'S A PRESENT FROM YOUR PAPA.
I WONDER IF YOU'LL LIKE IT.
IT'S OUTSIDE?
BEHOLD.
THIS IS YOUR GARDEN.
ALL OF THIS IS MINE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THANK YOU, PAPA!
hug
LOOK AT YOU, RUN-NING!
YOU'LL TRIP!
tap tap

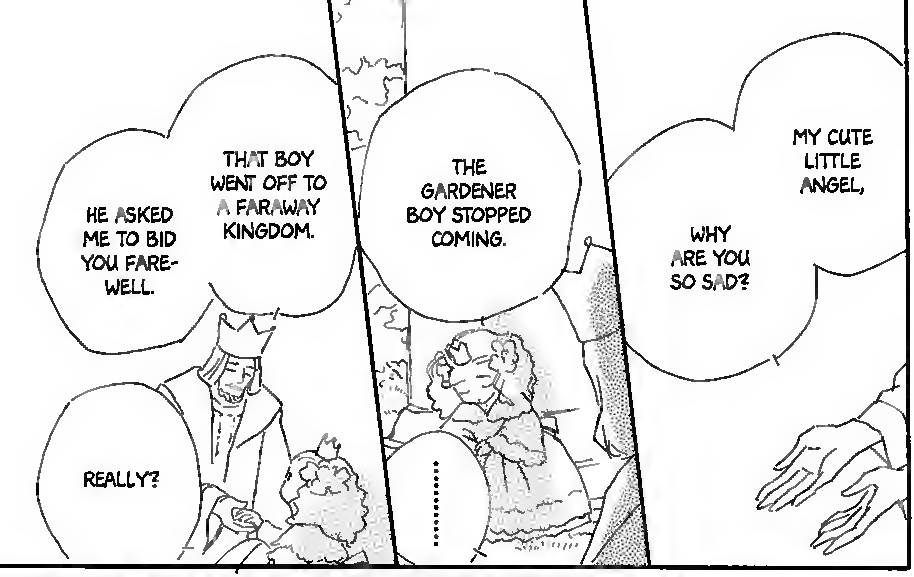
rustle
PEEP
tweet
peep
peep
WHO'S IN THERE?
Pop
I- I'M A GARDENER.
OH! THEN YOU'RE MY GARDENER!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS FLOWER CALLED?

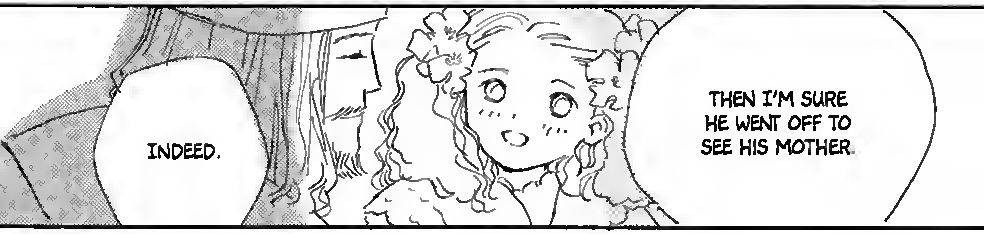
CAN I PLANT THESE SEEDS?
WELL, OUR LITTLE PRINCESS DOES LOVE FLOWERS AND PLANTS.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REALLY TAKEN TO THE GARDEN.
I FIRST MET YOU A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
YOU KNOW, YOUR HIGH-NESS,
YOUR HANDS WILL GET DIRTY.
OH, I DON'T MIND.
...HUH?
WHEN SHE SUDDENLY LEFT FOR ANOTHER KINGDOM. YOU MUST HAVE REALLY MISSED HER.
SO YOU DIDN'T GO WITH HER?
WAS YOUR WET NURSE.
MY MOTHER

.....
YOU MUST MISS HER.
UH— SURE, THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY SAID IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE WITH WARM WEATHER. RIGHT?
ANOTHER KINGDOM...?
I LIKE YOU.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU STAYED HERE IN THIS KINGDOM.
DOES IT HURT SOMEWHERE?
WHAT IS IT?
squeeze


HEY, THAT BOY HASN'T BEEN BY LATELY.
YES... HE'S A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER RIGHT NOW.
cough
cough
cough
SIR.
cough
cough

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU CAN ASK ME FOR ANYTHING.
Now, now, don't get up.
WHEN I DIE,
I WANT YOU
TO BURY ME IN THE PRINCESS'S GARDEN.
TH-THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION! I'D BE SACKED IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
PLEASE, SIR.
It was the boy's last wish.
After agonizing over it, the head gardener decided to grant it.
He snuck in during the dead of night and secretly buried the boy's remains in the very corner of the princess's garden.


MY CUTE LITTLE ANGEL,
WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
THE GARDENER BOY STOPPED COMING.
.....
THAT BOY WENT OFF TO A FARAWAY KINGDOM.
HE ASKED ME TO BID YOU FARE-WELL.
REALLY?

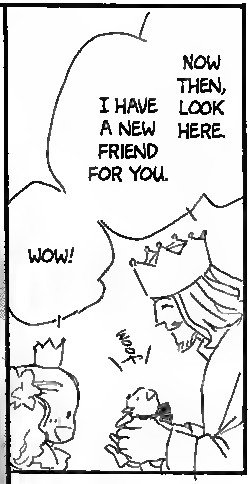


However,

one day an even greater tragedy struck the palace.

and it softened the loneliness she felt when she thought of the gardener boy.

The princess was completely enchanted with the puppy.



The entire kingdom was wrapped in grief,

including the king and princess.

The queen suddenly grew ill and passed away.

But the king's grief was so great that his heart didn't have any room left to worry about his daughter.

The palace servants were busy with funeral preparations,

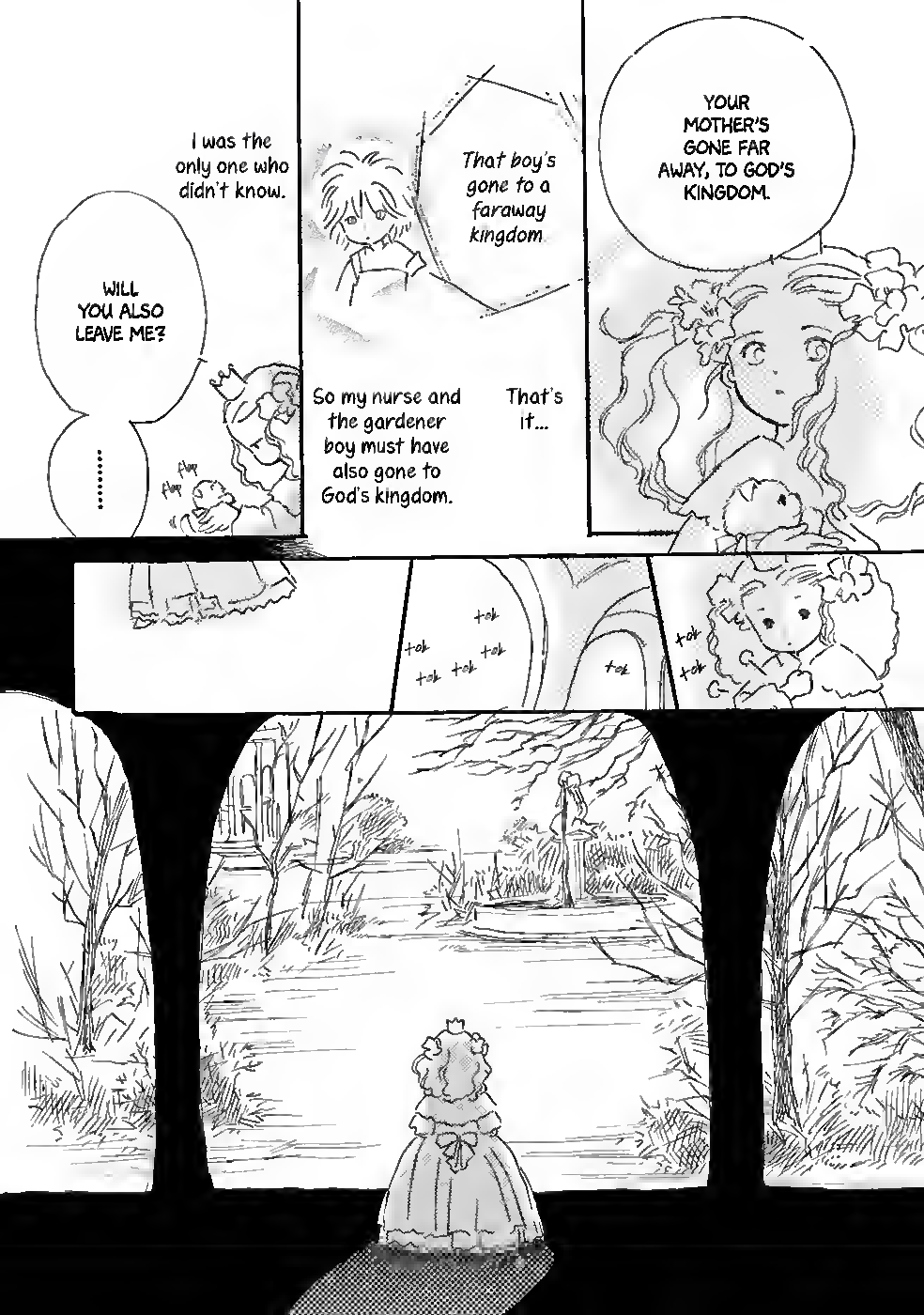
so the princess was left all alone in the giant palace.

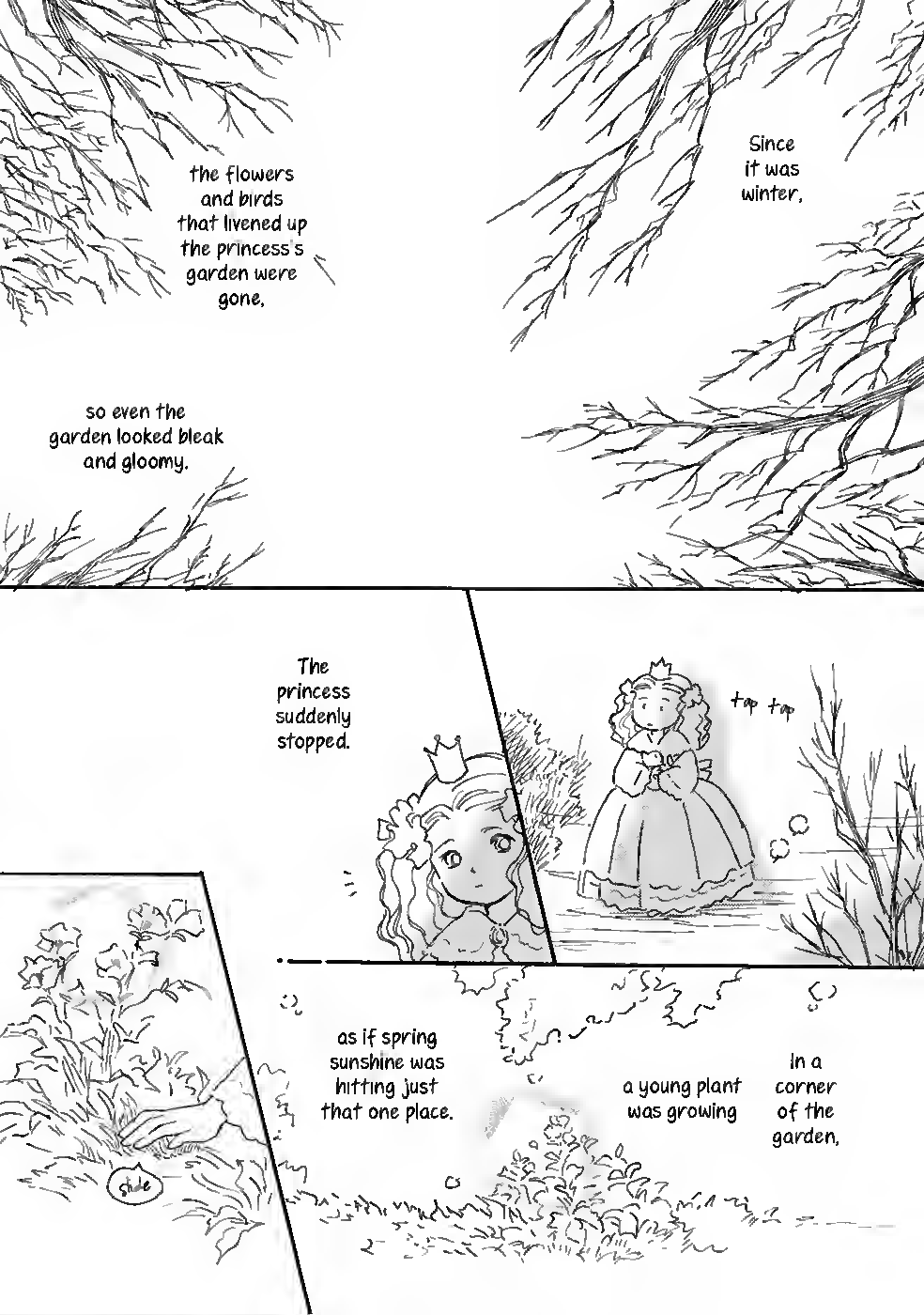
alone

tap tap tap

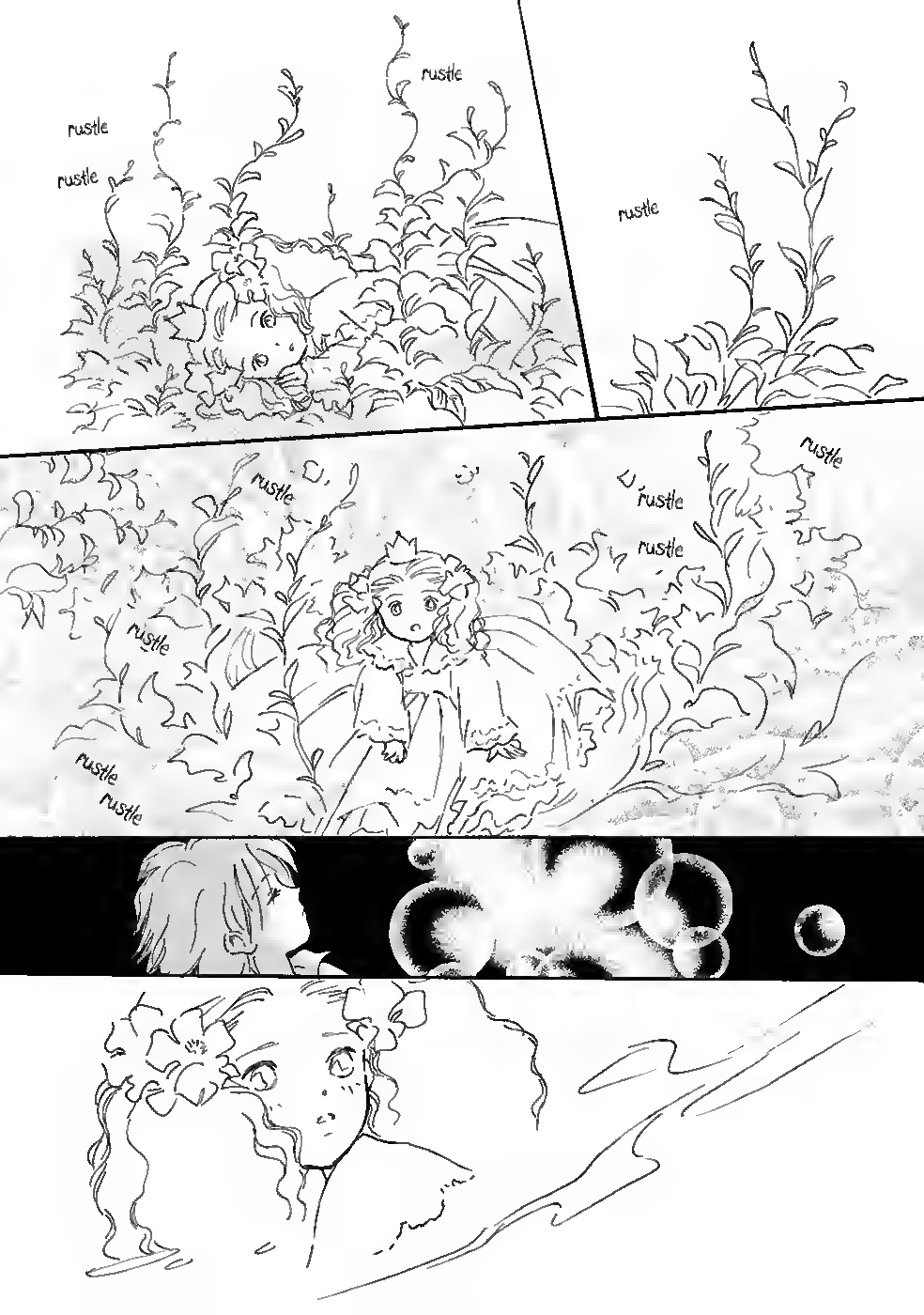
tap tap tap tap tap

...MONK?
hug
YES, THERE MUST BE. IT MUST HURT.
I THINK I'M SICK.
WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR HIGHNESS?
tok tok
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY STUFFY IN HERE.
I WON'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN?
IS THAT FAR?
THE QUEEN HAS GONE OFF TO GOD'S KINGDOM.
YOU'VE NEVER FELT GRIEF BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
EVEN THIS LITTLE ONE.
whine
ME,
YOU,
NO, IT'S A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE GOES EVENTUALLY.


YOUR MOTHER'S GONE FAR AWAY, TO GOD'S KINGDOM.
That's it...
That boy's gone to a faraway kingdom.
So my nurse and the gardener boy must have also gone to God's kingdom.
I was the only one who didn't know.
WILL YOU ALSO LEAVE ME?
.....
tap tap
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok
tok


the flowers and birds that livened up the princess's garden were gone,
Since it was winter,
so even the garden looked bleak and gloomy.
The princess suddenly stopped.
tap tap
as if spring sunshine was hitting just that one place.
a young plant was growing
In a corner of the garden,
She

...IT'S WARM.


rustle
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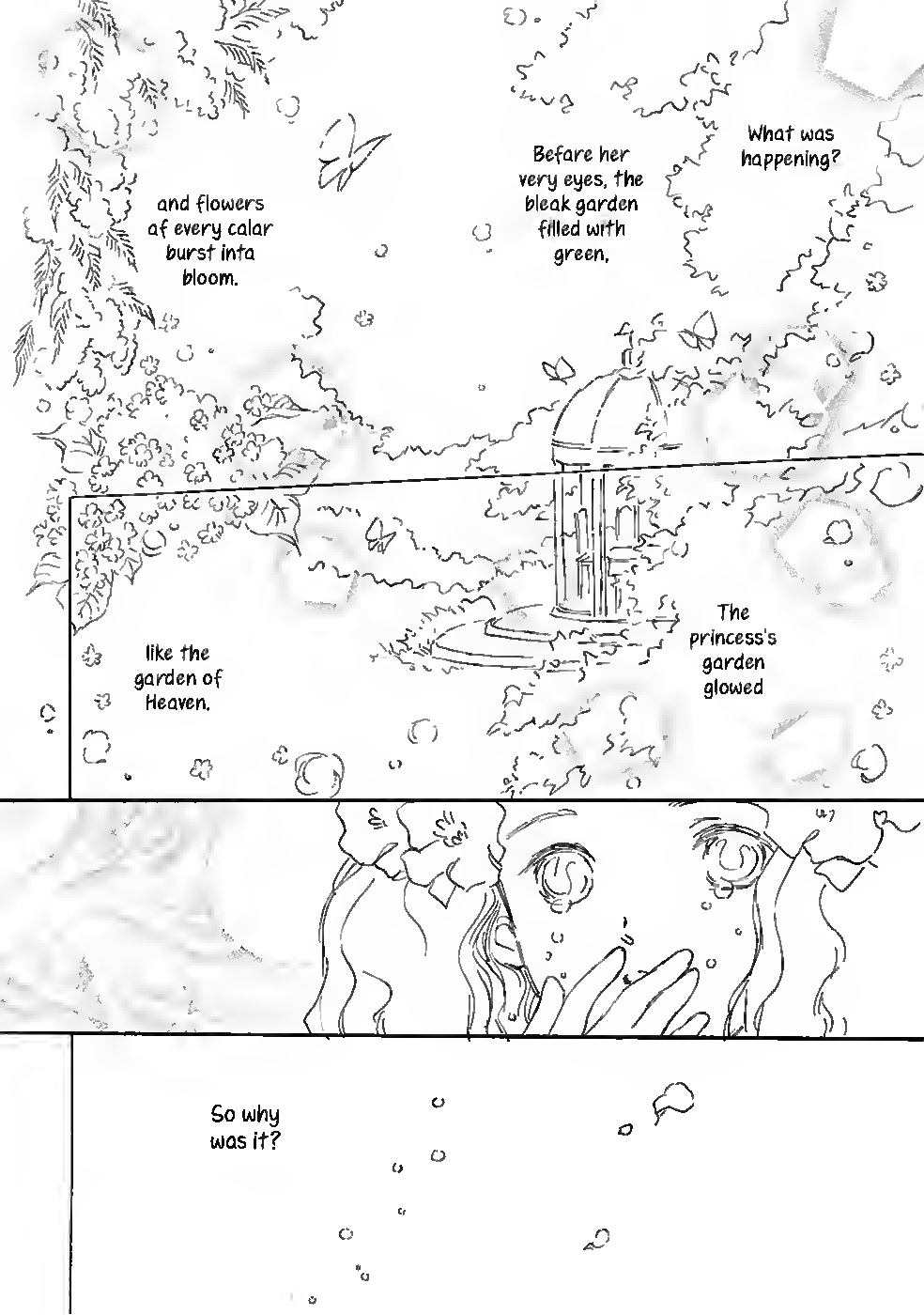
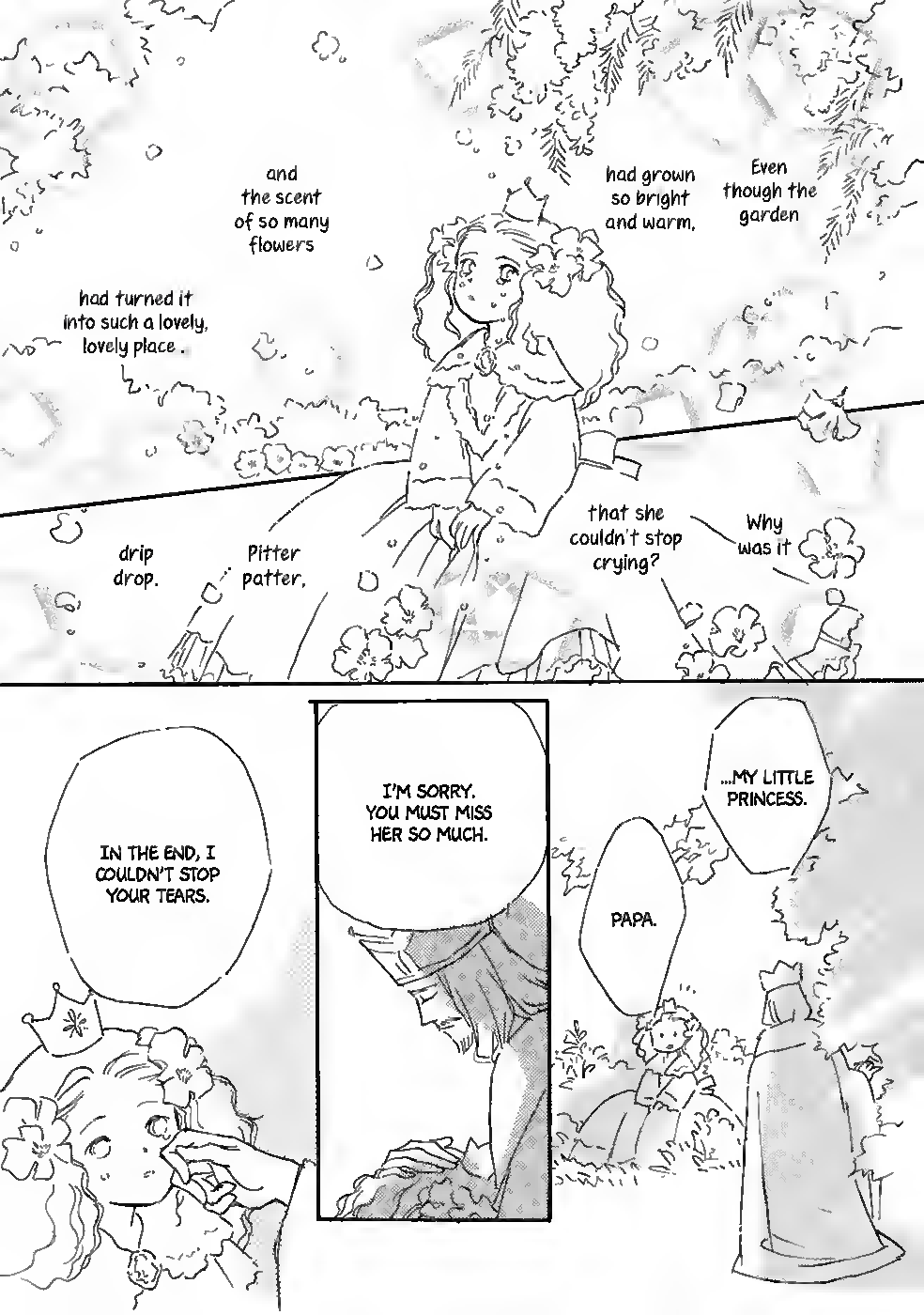
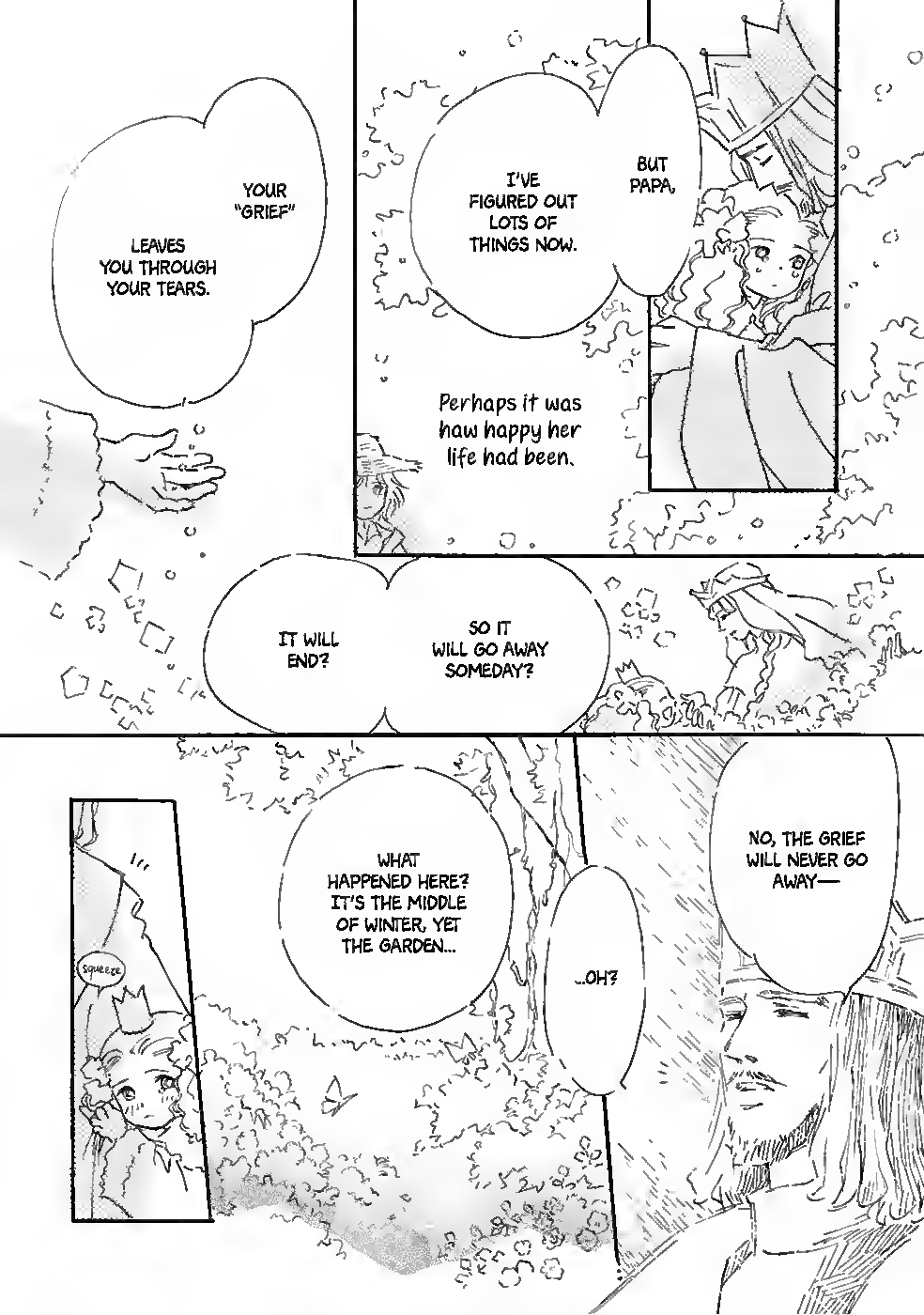

What was happening?
Before her very eyes, the bleak garden filled with green,
and flowers af every calar burst inta bloom.
The princess's garden glowed
like the garden of Heaven.
So why was it?


and the scent of so many flowers
had grown so bright and warm,
Even though the garden
had turned it into such a lovely, lovely place.
drip drop.
Pitter patter,
that she couldn't stop crying?
Why was it
IN THE END, I COULDN'T STOP YOUR TEARS.
I'M SORRY. YOU MUST MISS HER SO MUCH.
PAPA.
...MY LITTLE PRINCESS.


YOUR "GRIEF"
LEAVES YOU THROUGH YOUR TEARS.
I'VE FIGURED OUT LOTS OF THINGS NOW.
BUT PAPA,
Perhaps it was haw happy her life had been.
IT WILL END?
SO IT WILL GO AWAY SOMEDAY?
NO, THE GRIEF WILL NEVER GO AWAY—
WHAT HAPPENED HERE? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, YET THE GARDEN...
...OH?
!!!
SQUEEZE

LISTEN WELL, MY PRINCESS.
GRIEF ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ENDS.
IT COULD BE... THERE'S NO WAY TO BE SURE. IT WAS FROM SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU.
FROM MOMMY?
PERHAPS IT WAS A GIFT FOR YOU, MY PRINCESS?
BUT
HAPPINESS IS ALSO SOMETHING
WHICH HAS NO END.

END